

***Disclosure-Field of the Invention***

### ***Background of the Invention***~~Prior Art~~

The results of investigations directed to the understanding of pathogenesis of mental disorders have shown that a disorder in the serotonin equilibrium plays an important role in various diseases. The monoamine-deficiency hypothesis was one of the first explanations, wherein the symptoms of depression were connected to a reduction in the neurotransmission of monoamines, especially serotonin (5-HT) and noradrenaline, which was also confirmed by neurochemical tests as well as by a successful treatment of the patients with substances increasing monoaminergic neurotransmission (*Expert Opin. Investig. Drugs* **2003**, 12, 531–543). In addition to the serotonergic and noradrenergic

For treatment of pathological CNS disorders and particularly for mental disorders, the most frequently applied medicines. For treatment of pathological CNS disorders and particularly in the therapy of mental disorders a significant role as the most frequently applied medicines is given to substances that, according to their structure, are polycyclic compounds (benzodiazepines, tricyclic and tetracyclic antidepressants, monoamino oxidase (MAO) inhibitors, selective inhibitors of serotonin reabsorption etc.).

{W:\03818\0204415us0\00747536.DOC | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 }

In our earlier International publication WO 03/084964, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety as amended with ~~letter~~ with a letter dated May 12, 2005, we disclose compounds of 3-aza-1-oxa-dibenzo[*e,h*]azulene class, their pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates, process and intermediates for preparation thereof as well as their antiinflammatory effects especially to the inhibition of tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ) production and the inhibition of interleukin-1 (IL-1) production along with their ~~analgetice~~ analgesic action.

We have now surprisingly found that compounds from the class of 3-aza-1-oxa-dibenzo[*e,h*]azulenes as described in aforementioned specification are effective in the treatment of diseases and disorders of CNS. The present compounds differ structurally from the art-known tetracyclic compounds acting upon CNS by an unsaturated tetracyclic structure since they contain a oxazole ring as the fourth ring, whereas the art-known tetracyclic compounds acting upon CNS (WO 99/19317, WO 97/38991;



$$(\text{CH}_2)_m - \text{Q}_1 - (\text{CH}_2)_n - \text{Q}_2 - \text{N} \begin{matrix} \nearrow \text{R}^2 \\ \searrow \text{R}^3 \end{matrix}$$

wherein

m represents an integer from 1 to 3;

n represents an integer from 0 to 3;

$Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  independently from each other have the meaning of are oxygen, sulfur or a group:

{W:\03818\0204415us0\00747536.DOC }

The term "alkenylalkynyl" relates to alkenyl groups having the meaning of hydrocarbon radicals, which are straight or branched and contain at least one and at most two carbon-carbon triple bonds. The most frequent alkenylalkynyls are e.g. ethynyl, propynyl or butynyl.

The term "alkoxy" relates to straight or branched chains of alkoxy group. Examples of such groups are methoxy, propoxy, prop-2-oxy, butoxy, but-2-oxy or methylprop-2-oxy.

The term "aryl" relates to groups having the meaning of an aromatic ring, e.g. phenyl, as well as to fused aromatic rings. Aryl contains one ring with at least 6 carbon atoms or two rings with ~~totally~~total of 10 carbon atoms and with alternating double (resonant) bonds between carbon atoms. The most frequently used aryls are e.g. phenyl or naphthyl. In general, aryl groups may be linked to the rest of the molecule by any available carbon atom via a direct bond or via a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene group such as methylene or ethylene.

The term "heteroaryl" relates to groups having the meaning of aromatic and partially aromatic groups of a monocyclic or bicyclic ring with 4 to 12 carbon atoms, at least one of them being a hetero atom such as O, S or N, and the available nitrogen atom or carbon atom is the binding site of the group to the rest of the molecule either via a direct bond or via a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene group defined earlier. Examples of this type are thiophenyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, quinolinyl or triazinyl.

The term "heterocycle" relates to five-member or six-member, fully saturated or partly unsaturated heterocyclic groups containing at least one hetero atom such as O, S or N, and the available nitrogen atom or carbon atom is the binding site of the group to the rest of the molecule either via a direct bond or via a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene group defined earlier. The most frequent examples are morpholinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pirazinyl or imidazolyl.

The term "alkanoyl" group relates to straight chains of acyl group such as formyl, acetyl or propanoyl.

The term "aroyl" group relates to aromatic acyl groups such as benzoyl.

The term "optionally substituted alkyl" relates to alkyl groups which may be optionally additionally substituted with one, two, three or more substituents. Such substituents may be halogen atom (preferably fluorine or chlorine), hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy (preferably methoxy or ethoxy), thiol, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylthio (preferably methylthio or ethylthio), amino, *N*-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>) alkylamino (preferably *N*-methylamino or *N*-ethylamino), *N,N*-di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl)-amino (preferably dimethylamino or diethylamino), sulfonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylsulfonyl (preferably methylsulfonyl or ethylsulfonyl), sulfinyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylsulfinyl (preferably methylsulfinyl).

The term "optionally substituted alkenyl" relates to alkenyl groups optionally additionally substituted with one, two or three halogen atoms. Such substituents may be e.g. 2-chloroethenyl, 1,2-dichloroethenyl or 2-bromo-propene-1-yl.

The term "optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycle" relates to aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclic groups which may be optionally additionally substituted with one or two substituents. The substituents may be halogen (preferably chlorine or fluorine), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl (preferably methyl, ethyl or isopropyl), cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy (preferably methoxy or ethoxy), thiol, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylthio (preferably methylthio or ethylthio), amino, *N*-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>) alkylamino (preferably *N*-methylamino or *N*-ethylamino), *N,N*-di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl)-amino (preferably *N,N*-dimethylamino or *N,N*-diethylamino), sulfonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylsulfonyl (preferably methylsulfonyl or ethylsulfonyl), sulfinyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylsulfinyl (preferably methylsulfinyl).

When X has the meaning of is NR<sup>a</sup>, R<sup>a</sup> relates to a hydrogen or group selected from the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl (preferably methyl or ethyl), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkanoyl (preferably formyl or acetyl), C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl (preferably methoxycarbonyl or *tert*-butoxycarbonyl), C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-arylalkyloxycarbonyl (preferably benzyloxycarbonyl), C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-aroyl (preferably benzoyl), C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-arylalkyl (preferably benzyl), C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-alkylsilyl (preferably trimethylsilyl) or C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alkylsilylalkoxyalkyl (preferably trimethylsilylethoxymethyl).

When R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together with N ~~have the meaning of~~ are heteroaryl or heterocycle, this means that such heteroaryl or heterocycle has at least one carbon atom replaced by a nitrogen atom through which the groups are linked to the rest of the molecule. Examples of such groups are morpholine-4-yl, piperidine-1-yl, pyrrolidine-1-yl, imidazole-1-yl or piperazine-1-yl.

Depending upon the nature of particular substituents, the compounds of the formula **I** may have geometric isomers and one or more chiral centres so that there can exist enantiomers or





ary has the meaning is as defined above; or together with N have the meaning of arc heterocycle or heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of morpholine-4-yl, piperidine-1-yl, pyrrolidine-1-yl, imidazole-1-yl and piperazine-1-yl

m represents an is an integer from 1 to 3;

n represents an is an integer from 0 to 3;

Q<sub>1</sub> and Q<sub>2</sub> independently from each other have the meaning of arc oxygen or CH<sub>2</sub> group.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention the specifically preferred compounds of formula **I** are:

1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
3-(1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-yl)-propionic acid ethyl ester;  
3-(1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-yl)-propionic acid ethyl ester;  
2-methyl-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
2-methyl-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
11-chloro-2-methyl-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
5-chloro-2-methyl-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
11-chloro-2-methyl-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
5-chloro-2-methyl-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene-2-carbaldehyde;  
3-(1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-yl)-propionic acid;  
3-(1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-yl)-propionic acid;  
(1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-yl)-methanol;  
3-(1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-yl)-propane-1-ol;  
3-(1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-yl)-propane-1-ol;  
2-bromomethyl-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
2-bromomethyl-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
2-bromomethyl-5-chloro-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
2-bromomethyl-11-chloro-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
2-bromomethyl-5-chloro-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
2-bromomethyl-11-chloro-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene;  
dimethyl-[2-(1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine;  
dimethyl-[3-(1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine;  
dimethyl-[2-[3-(1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-yl)-propoxy]-ethyl]-amine;  
dimethyl-[3-[3-(1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-yl)-propoxy]-propyl]-amine;  
{2-[3-(1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-yl)-propoxy]-ethyl}-dimethylamine;

*[3-[3-(1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-yl)-propoxy]-propyl]-dimethylamine;*  
*[2-(1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-dimethylamine;*  
*[3-(1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-dimethylamine;*  
*2-(5-chloro-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-dimethylamine;*  
*[3-(5-chloro-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-dimethylamine;*  
*[2-(11-chloro-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-dimethylamine;*  
*[3-(11-chloro-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-dimethylamine;*  
*[2-(5-chloro-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-dimethylamine;*  
*[3-(5-chloro-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-dimethylamine;*  
*[2-(11-chloro-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-dimethylamine; and*  
*[3-(11-chloro-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-dimethylamine.*

Generally, the compounds of 3-aza-1-oxa-dibenzo[e,h]azulene class, their pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates represented by the formula I can be prepared by the processes set forth in our earlier International publication WO 03/084964, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety as amended ~~in the~~with letter of May 12, 12.05.2004.

The compounds of the present invention are especially effective in treating those diseases and disorders where the neurochemical equilibrium of biogenic amines such as serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamine was disturbed and which may be caused by unbalanced (too big or too small) synthesis, irregularities in storing, releasing, metabolizing and/or reabsorption of a certain neurotransmitter.

It has been found that the compounds of the present invention exhibit a significant binding affinity and have a high degree of selectivity to serotonin receptors, especially to 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> and 5-HT<sub>2C</sub>, as well as for ~~σ1~~the σ1 receptor.

In one embodiment of the present invention the compound of formula I, or salt, or solvate thereof show binding affinity to 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> and 5-HT<sub>2C</sub> serotonin receptors in the concentration expressed as an IC<sub>50</sub> value less than 1 μM and having K<sub>i</sub> value less than 1 μM.

In another embodiment of the present invention the compound of formula I, or salt, or solvate thereof show binding affinity to 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> serotonin receptor in the concentration expressed as an IC<sub>50</sub> value less than about 200 nM and having K<sub>i</sub> value less than about 100 nM.

In one embodiment of the present invention the compound of formula **I**, or salt, or solvate thereof show binding affinity to the  $\sigma 1$  receptor in the concentration expressed as an  $IC_{50}$  value less than 1  $\mu M$  and having  $K_i$  value less than 1  $\mu M$ .

In another embodiment of the present invention the compound of formula I, or salt, or solvate thereof show binding affinity to the  $\sigma_1$  receptor in the concentration expressed as an  $IC_{50}$  value less than about 200 nM and having  $K_i$  value less than about 100 nM.

Since serotonin receptors are crucial in pathophysiology of a series of CNS disorders (directly or indirectly by participating in the activation of some other neurotransmitter e.g. dopamine and/or receptor), the compounds of the present invention may be used for the manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations for the treatment and prevention of diseases, damages and disorders, wherein biogenic amines and their receptors play an important role.

In view of the above explained favourable biological properties of the compounds of the present invention administration of the therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula **I** provides an effective method of treatment of CNS diseases and disorders associated with fewer side effects due to their improved selectivity towards the  $\sigma_1$  receptor and the 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> and 5-HT<sub>2C</sub> serotonin receptors.

### Pharmaceutical Compositions

In general, the compounds of the present invention may be used for the manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations that are used as antidepressants, anxiolytics, antipsychotics or as drugs for treating migraine.

Further, the compounds of the present invention may be used for the manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations for the treatment and prevention of diseases and disorders which are the result of disorders of neurochemical equilibrium in the central nervous system such as e.g. depression and

The effective dose of the active substance of the present invention and of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof depends on the efficacy of the compound of the general formula I, on the nature and the severity of the disease and the disorder of CNS as well as on the body weight of the patient treated and may be from 0.001–10 mg/kg body weight. In any case a unit dose for an adult of an average weight of 70 kg is understood to be 0.07–1000 mg of the compound of the general formula I or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof. A unit dose may be administered once or several times daily, e.g. 2, 3 or 4 times daily, most frequently 1 to 3 times daily.

The term "salts" can include acid addition salts or addition salts of free bases. Examples of acids which may be employed to form pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts include but are not limited to salts derived from nontoxic inorganic acids such as nitric, phosphoric, sulfuric, or hydrobromic, hydroiodic, hydrofluoric, phosphorous, as well as salts derived from nontoxic organic acids such as aliphatic mono- and dicarboxylic acids, phenyl-substituted alkanolic acids, hydroxyl alkanolic acids, alkanedioic acids, aromatic acids, aliphatic and aromatic sulfonic acids, and acetic, maleic, succinic, or citric acids. Non-limiting examples of such salts include napadisylate, besylate, sulfate, pyrosulfate, bisulfate, sulfite, bisulfite, nitrate, phosphate, monohydrogenphosphate, dihydrogenphosphate, metaphosphate, pyrophosphate, chloride, bromide, iodide, acetate, trifluoroacetate, propionate, caprylate, isobutyrate, oxalate, malonate, succinate, suberate, sebacate, fumarate, maleate, mandelate, benzoate, chlorobenzoate, methylbenzoate, dinitrobenzoate, phthalate, benzenesulfonate, toluenesulfonate, phenylacetate, citrate, lactate, maleate, tartrate, methanesulfonate, and the like. Also contemplated are salts of amino acids such as arginate and the like and gluconate.

Pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salts are formed with metals or amines, such as alkali and alkaline earth metals or organic amines. Examples of metals used as cations are sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, and the like. Examples of suitable amines are N,N'-dibenzylethylenediamine, chloroprocaine, choline, diethanolamine, dicyclohexylamine, ethylenediamine, N-methylglucamine, and procaine.

Preferred pharmaceutically acceptable salts according to invention relate to salts of hydrobromic, hydrochloric, perchloric, sulfuric, maleic, fumaric, tartaric, citronic, benzoic, mandelic, methanesulfonic, benzenesulfonic, oxalic, p-toluenesulfonic, 2-naphthalenesulfonic and phosphoric acid

The phrase “pharmaceutically acceptable”, as used in connection with compositions of the invention, refers to molecular entities and other ingredients of such compositions that are physiologically tolerable and do not typically produce untoward reactions when administered to a mammal (e.g., human). Preferably, as used herein, the term “pharmaceutically acceptable” means approved by a regulatory agency of the Federal or a state government or listed in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia or other generally recognized pharmacopoeias for use in mammals, and more particularly in humans.

A “pharmaceutically acceptable excipient” means an excipient that is useful in preparing a pharmaceutical composition that is generally safe, non-toxic and neither biologically nor otherwise undesirable, and includes an excipient that is acceptable for veterinary use as well as human pharmaceutical use. A “pharmaceutically acceptable excipient” as used in the present application includes both one and more than one such excipient.

Pharmaceutical formulations may be manufactured using conventional pharmaceutical auxiliaries and manufacture routes. Forms for oral administration may be syrups, capsules, tablets and similar forms where usual solid carriers are inert substances such as lactose, starch, glucose, methylcellulose, magnesium stearate, dicalcium phosphate, mannitol and similar, and usual liquid oral auxiliaries include ethanol, glycerol, water and similar. All auxiliaries may be optionally blended with disintegrants, diluents, granulating agents, wetting agents, binders and similar by using conventional methods. Parenteral forms may be manufactured by using water or some other sterile carrier. When for the manufacture of oral formulations some of the common liquid carriers e.g. water, glycol, oils, alcohols and similar are used, the formulation may be in the form of syrup, emulsion, soft gelatine capsules or sterile injectable liquids e.g. ampoules, or of non-aqueous liquid suspensions. When for

the manufacture of oral formulations a solid carrier such as starch, sugar, kaolin, wetting agents, binders, disintegrants and similar is used, the formulation may be in the form of a powder, capsule, tablet, hard gelatine capsules or granules that may be administered in capsules, and the amount of the solid carrier may vary (most frequently from 1 mg to 1 g). Due to their easy use, tablets and capsules are the most convenient oral formulations wherein a solid carrier is used. For parenteral formulations the carrier is mostly sterile water, though other ingredients may be contained therein as well in order to improve solubility. For the manufacture of injectable solutions, sodium chloride solution, glucose solution or a mixture thereof is used. Injectable solutions may also contain a component for a delayed release of active component. Convenient oils that may be used for this purpose are e.g. arachic oil, sesame oil, cottonseed oil, corn oil, soybean oil, synthetic glycerol esters of long-chain fatty acids or a mixture of some of said oils. Injectable suspensions may be manufactured in such a way that a suitable liquid carrier used is blended with a suspending agent. In formulations convenient for percutaneous administration, as a carrier there is understood a substance improving the penetration of the active substance and/or a suitable wetting agent, which may be combined with a suitable additive of any provenience, which additives do not cause harmful effects on skin. Said additives may facilitate the skin administration and/or may be used in the manufacture of the desired formulations, which may be applied in various ways e.g. transdermally, spot-on, or in the form of an ointment.

To improve the solubility and/or stability of the present compounds, in pharmacological formulations there may be used  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ - or  $\gamma$ -cyclodextrins or derivatives thereof, especially hydroxyalkyl substituted cyclodextrins i.e. 2-hydroxypropyl- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin. Cosolvents such as e.g. alcohols may also improve the solubility and/or stability of the present compounds in various pharmaceutical formulations.

"Treating" or "treatment" of a state, disorder or condition includes:

- (1) preventing or delaying the appearance of clinical symptoms of the state, disorder or condition developing in a mammal that may be afflicted with or predisposed to the state, disorder or condition but does not yet experience or display clinical or subclinical symptoms of the state, disorder or condition,
- (2) inhibiting the state, disorder or condition, i.e., arresting or reducing the development of the disease or at least one clinical or subclinical symptom thereof, or
- (3) relieving the disease, i.e., causing regression of the state, disorder or condition or at least one of its clinical or subclinical symptoms.

The benefit to a subject to be treated is either statistically significant or at least perceptible to the patient or to the physician.





When a binding balance was achieved, the receptors to which the radioligand was bound were separated from those to which said ligand was not bound, and the radioactivity of the receptor/radioligand complex was measured. The interaction of the tested compounds with receptors was tested in competitive binding experiments. Various concentrations of tested compounds were added to the incubation mixture containing a prepared tissue enriched with corresponding receptors and the radioligand. The radioligand binding was inhibited by the test compounds proportionally to the affinity of a certain compound for the receptor and to the concentration of the compound.

The radioligand used for the determination of binding to 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> receptor was [<sup>3</sup>H]-ketanserin and the tissue used was human cortex or recombinant 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> receptor expressed in ~~CHO-K1~~CHO-K1 cells.

The radioligand used for the determination of binding to 5-HT<sub>2C</sub> receptor was [<sup>3</sup>H]-mesulergine and the tissue used was choroid plexus or recombinant 5-HT<sub>2C</sub> receptor expressed in CHO-K1 cells.

Compounds showing IC<sub>50</sub> and K<sub>i</sub> ~~in concentrations~~values lower than 1 µM, were considered to be active.

Compounds: 1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene, dimethyl-[2-(1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine, [2-(11-chloro-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-dimethyl-amine, [2-(5-chloro-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-dimethyl-amine and 5-chloro-2-methyl-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene showed binding affinity to 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> and 5-HT<sub>2C</sub> serotonin receptors expressed as IC<sub>50</sub> value less than 200 nM and K<sub>i</sub> value less than 100 nM.

It is anticipated that similar results will be observed for other compounds of the invention.

#### **In vitro method for determining binding affinity to the σ1 receptor**

Jurkat cell were grown in medium, RPMI supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 100U/ml penicillin and 100µg/ml streptomycin, collected and their suspension homogenized. After centrifugation, membrane fraction was separated, resuspended in phosphate buffer (pH=7.5) and stored in small aliquots in liquid nitrogen until use.

Binding of different radiolabeled ~~ligands~~ligands to Jurkat cell membranes was measured as described previously (Ramamoorthy et al., 1995). To characterize the σ binding sites in the Jurkat cell line, [<sup>3</sup>H]haloperidol as first used as the ligand. Haloperidol is a high affinity ligand to both type 1 and type 2 σ-receptors. The binding assays were done using Jurkat cell membranes in the presence of

[<sup>3</sup>H]haloperidol (10nM) alone to determine the total binding, and in the presence of [<sup>3</sup>H]haloperidol (10nM) and unlabeled haloperidol (10μM) to determine the nonspecific binding.

Membranes were incubated with ligands in phosphate buffer for 3 hours at room temperature. After filter had been washed, radioactivity associated with the filter was determined by liquid scintillation spectrometry.

Compounds showing IC<sub>50</sub> and K<sub>i</sub> ~~in concentrations~~values lower than 1 μM, were considered to be active.

It is anticipated that similar results will be observed for other compounds of the invention.

#### **Forced swim test in mice**

Male CD1 mice of the weight of 20–25 g were used for the experiment. Groups of 10 animals were treated with the test compounds, imipramine (positive control) or the vehicle (negative control) by *per os* by gavage 30 min prior to testing to determine efficacy. On the day of the experiment the animals were placed into a glass cylinder (height 18.2 cm, diameter 13.3 cm) filled with water warmed to 22 °C to the height of 10 cm. The immobility defined as the end of the struggling of the animal and the beginning of floating, wherein the movements were reduced to those indispensable for the animal to keep its head over the water surface, started to be recorded after two minutes and then it was monitored during 4 minutes.

The percentage of animals showing a passive behaviour was calculated and compared with a control group treated with a carrier. The compounds that in a dose of 10 mg/kg reduced the immobility of animals for 30 % and more over the control group were considered to be active.

Compound dimethyl-[2-(1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine at the test doses of 1 mg/kg and 0,1 mg/kg showed reduction of immobility in a range of 30 to 40%.

It is anticipated that similar results will be observed for other compounds of the invention.

#### **Tail suspension test in mice**

Male Balb/cJ mice of the weight of 20–25 g were used for the experiment. Groups of 9 animals were treated with the test compounds, imipramine (positive control) or the vehicle (negative control) by intraperitoneal injection, subcutaneous injection or per oral by gavage 30 min prior to testing to measure potential antidepressant activity. Mice were suspended from their tails at a height of about 90

cm and were observed for 5 minutes. The mice hanging fully motionless for 1 minute during the observation period were defined as depressive. In animals treated with a substance having an antidepressive action the period of immobility was shortened.

The percentage of animals showing a passive behaviour was calculated and compared with a control group treated with a vehicle. Significance of results was analysed using Fischer's exact test. The compounds that in a dose of 10 mg/kg reduced the immobility of animals for 40 % and more over a control group were considered to be active.

Compounds: dimethyl-[2-(1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine, [2-(5-chloro-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-dimethyl-amine, [2-(11-chloro-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-dimethyl-amine, [2-(5-chloro-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-dimethyl-amine, [2-(11-chloro-1-oxa-8-thia-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulen-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-dimethyl-amine and 5-chloro-2-methyl-1,8-dioxa-3-aza-dibenzo[e,h]azulene at the test doses of 1 mg/kg, 0,03 mg/kg and 0,001 mg/kg showed 40-100% reduction of immobility.

It is anticipated that similar results will be observed for other compounds of the invention.

#### **Amphetamine-induced hyperlocomotion in mice**

Male Swiss OFA mice of a weight 30-35g were treated with either vehicle (saline) or test compounds 30 minutes prior to hyperlocomotion induction. Dexamphetamine sulphate was administered intraperitoneally at 2mg/kg. Thirty minutes later, animals were placed in a wooden box 80 x80 cm in a room with low light intensity (100 lux) for locomotor activity recording. Locomotor activity was determined during a 30 min period using a video image analyzer. Total duration of movement, occurrence of movement and total distance travelled were measured. Haloperidol was tested at the dose of 0,25 mg/kg (prepared in 0,5% ~~methylcellulose~~ and methylcellulose) and served as reference substance.

Compounds were considered as active if in a dose of 10 mg/kg reduced ~~amphetamine~~amphetamine-induced hyperlocomotion in experimental animals for 30% and more when compared to vehicle treated control group.

It is anticipated that similar results will be observed for other compounds of the invention.

#### **Meta-chlorophenyl piperazine (m-CPP) test on rats**

The tested substance was administered to rats per os 1 hour before the test and m-CPP in a dose of 1 mg/kg was administered intravenously 15 minutes before the test. At the beginning of the experiment the treated animals were subjected to an open field test on rats (*Drug Dev. Res.* **1989**, 18, 119–144): the apparatus consisted of an open box having the dimensions 80 × 65 × 35 cm, which in one wall had an opening with a diameter of 10 cm, by which it was connected to a non-illuminated compartment having the dimensions 25 × 21 × 21 cm, and the opening was illuminated by a light source (IR source or Kleverlux®; 12 V/20 W) from the distance of 66 cm; one hour after administering the tested substance, the animals were placed in the dark (non-illuminated) compartment so that their heads were turned away from the illuminated exit and the passing of the animals from the dark compartment to the bright one was measured for 10 minutes.

As an active dose of the substance there was defined a dose at which the effect induced by m-CPP was reduced for 40 % and more.

It is anticipated that similar results will be observed for other compounds of the invention.

#### **Apomorphine, tryptamine, norepinephrine (ATN) test in rats**

At the beginning of the experiment ( $t = 0$ ) the animals were injected intravenously by 1.25 mg/kg of apomorphine, then by 40 mg/kg of tryptamine ( $t = 60$  minutes) and by 1.25 mg/kg of norepinephrine ( $t = 90$  minutes).

There were watched a state of exceptional agitation and normal behaviour during 60 minutes (apomorphine test), then bilateral clonic convulsions of back paws and a general tremor of the body in tryptamine test (observation period 5 minutes) and lethality during 120 minutes after the injection in norepinephrine test.

The percentage of animals showing a passive behaviour was calculated and compared with a control group treated with a carrier.

The compounds which in a dose of 10 mg/kg reduced the period of duration of observed effects (mobility) for 40 % over a control group were considered to be active in *in vivo* testings.

It is anticipated that similar results will be observed for other compounds of the invention.

Some of the present compounds tested in the above assays showed an action in at least two of said tests, though these results represent only an illustration of the biological action of the compounds and do not limit the present invention in any way.